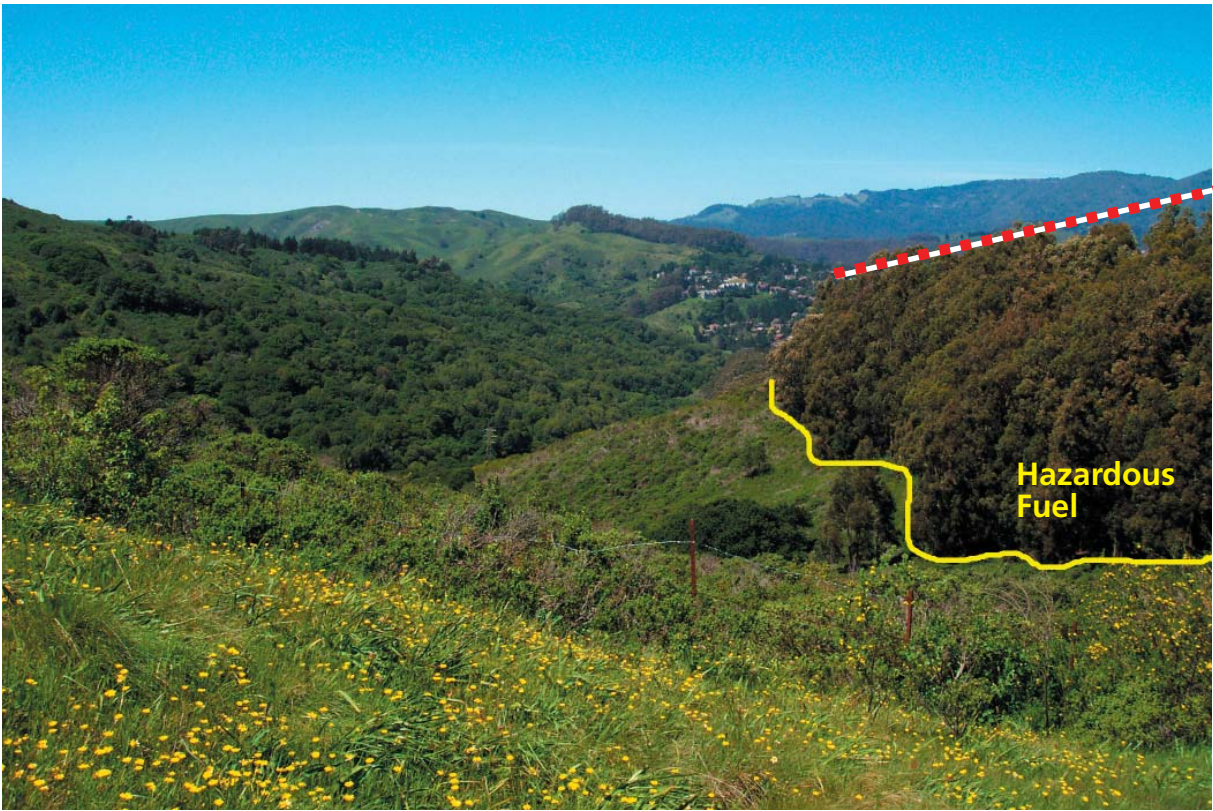


Reducing Hazardous Fuels on Park Lands: Alta Avenue



THE ALTA AVENUE CORRIDOR WITHIN GOLDEN Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) is an important fire access road as well as a high visitor use area. A cooperative agreement between GGNRA and Golden Gate National Parks Association (GGNPA) was established to reduce fuels along the corridor and restore native plant communities.

GGNRA’s Alta Avenue Fuel Reduction Project includes non-native broom and eucalyptus removal, followed by native plant restoration managed by the Site Stewardship program of the Parks Association. The project will reduce wildfire risk to neighborhoods in Marin City. The Sausalito Fire Department and Marin County Fire Department in Marin City both believe this project addresses one of the biggest fire hazards they face.

The broom removal portion of the project began in December 2001. A nine person crew consisting of local residents, both adults and high school students, was hired to work on weekends and holidays to remove broom from along the southern end of Alta Avenue. The crew removed approximately one and a half acres of broom, more than 25,000 plants. With support from Marin County Fire Department, the broom debris was chipped and broadcast onsite as mulch.

The eucalyptus removal portion of the project began in August 2002. Eucalyptus trees, introduced to California from Australia, are extremely flammable due to the large amount of leaf litter they produce and the volatile oil in their leaves. In addition to posing a wildfire threat, eucalyptus threaten the health of native plants and wildlife by changing soil composition and reducing habitat. A total of ten acres of eucalyptus will be removed in two phases during





Marin County Fire Department assisted with the Alta Avenue project by providing the use of a chipper with supervision.

the Alta Avenue project. The sites will be revegetated with native plant species such as oaks and coyote brush.

Follow up work will also be conducted to remove additional non-native plants that move into the fuel reduction zone. The native species planted will be more fire resistant than the non-native species removed.

NEIGHBORS, VISITORS, PARTNERS

Reducing fuels through vegetation management reduces wildfire risk and helps protect homes located in the wildland-urban interface.



Non-native plants increase fuel loads and displace native species. The National Park Service and Golden Gate National Parks Association are partners in fuel reduction and ecosystem restoration.



Top: 1) The project site, showing roadside broom removal nearly complete, and the eucalyptus grove scheduled for removal. 2) An untreated area of broom on the other side of the eucalyptus grove to be removed in Phase 2 of the project.

Middle: 1) A group of weekend bicyclists passing by the drying broom piles. 2) The project crew, celebrating their broom removal accomplishment.

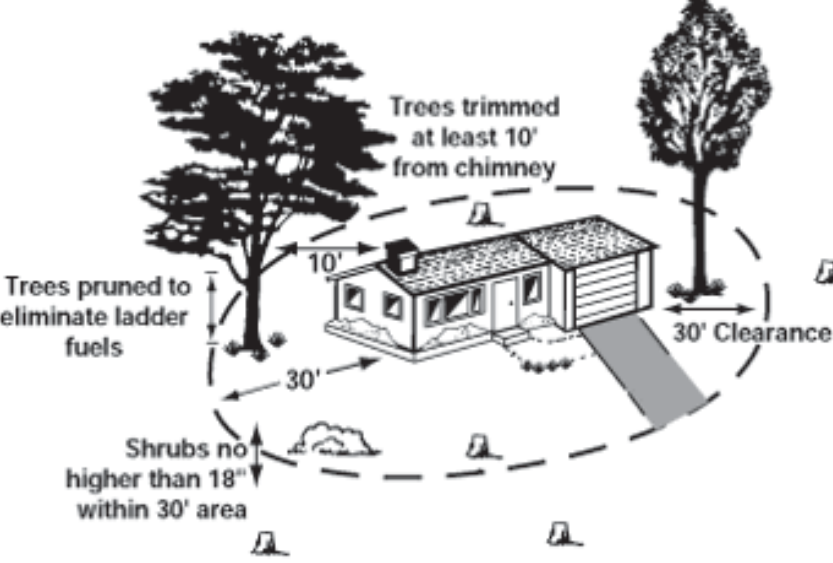
Below: Many homes in Marin City are surrounded by dense vegetation which is susceptible to wildfire.



Reducing Hazardous Fuels on Around Homes



Nearly 300 truckloads of vegetation debris removed from around homes was dropped off at a transfer site on National Park Service land in Olema. This site is being made available to the community to support local defensible space efforts.



Defensible space separates vegetation from structures and helps protect homes from wildfire.

